

REMARKS

The Office Action rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Applicant cancelled claims 9-12, amended claims 1, 7, 8, 13-16 and 18 and added new claims 20-32. Claims 1-8 and 13-32 remain.

Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

A Petition for a one (1) month extension of time and Formal Drawings accompany this Amendment as separate papers.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1-10, 12 and 14-19 as being anticipated by United States Patent Number 5,997,004 to Braun *et al.* (“Braun”). With respect to claims 7-10, 12 and 14-19, Applicant asserts that the rejection was improper and must be withdrawn. Specifically, Braun fails to disclose or to suggest an “axial” brush seal as recited in independent claims 7, 12 and 16. As commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art, an “axial” brush seal refers to a brush seal in which the bristles extend in an axial direction (*e.g.* along the engine centerline). For example, Applicant directs the Examiner to United States Patent Number 6,170,831 to Bouchard (“Bouchard”). Bouchard (entitled “**Axial** Brush Seal for Gas Turbine Engines”) shows a brush seal with bristles extending in the axial direction. Braun, on the other hand, discloses a radial brush seal. None of the cited references provide a motivation for such a modification. For at least this reason, the rejection of claims 7-10, 12 and 14-19 was improper and must be withdrawn.

With respect to claims 1-6, independent claim 1 now recites, *inter alia*, that the bristles extend “in a direction” and that the elongated slot allows the brush seal assembly to float “along [that] direction.” Braun fails to disclose or to suggest such a feature. In fact, none of the cited references provide a motivation for such a modification. Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-6.

The Office Action rejected claims 7, 9-13 and 15-17 as being anticipated by United States Patent Number 6,170,831 to Bouchard ("Bouchard"). Independent claim 7 now recites, *inter alia*, "splines" that extend into "keyways" in the elongated slot of the second component. Support for such changes appears, for example, in paragraph 29 of the original disclosure. Bouchard fails to disclose or to suggest such features. In fact, none of the remaining references provide a motivation for such a modification.

As for claims 16 and 17, independent claim 16 now recites, *inter alia*, a step of "preventing rotation" of the brush seal. Bouchard fails to disclose or to suggest this feature. In fact, none of the remaining references provide a motivation for such a modification.

As for claims 9-13 and 15, Applicant cancelled claims 9-12 without prejudice and amended claims 13 and 15 to depend from claim 14. Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

Other Claim Amendments

Applicant made several changes to the claims that were not in response to an objection or rejection. First, Applicant corrected the dependency of claim 18. The original dependency (to claim 15, an apparatus claim) was incorrect. This change does not narrow the scope of claim 18.

Second, Applicant rewrote claim 8 in independent form. This change does not narrow the scope of claim 18.

Newly Added Claims

Applicant added new claims 20-32. These newly added claims do not introduce new matter. Support for the claims appears in the disclosure as originally filed. For example, support for claim 20

appears in paragraph 39; support for claim 21 appears in original claim 4; support for claim 22, 24 and 31 appears in original claim 5; support for claims 23, 25 and 32 appears in original claim 6; support for claims 26-28 appears in paragraph 32 and Figure 2; claim 29 mirrors original dependent claim 18, but in independent form; and claim 30 mirrors original claim 19.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections. Applicant solicits the allowance of claims 1-8 and 13-32 at an early date.

Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to charge the \$388.00 fee due under 37 CFR 1.16(b) for the additional independent claims ($2 \times 86 = \$172.00$) and 37 CFR 1.16(c) for claims in excess of 20 ($12 \times 18 = \$216$) and any other fees due under 37 CFR 1.16 or 17, or to credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 21-0279.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Hamilla", with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

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